

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4672

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH

AMEMBASSY PRAIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 1625

NAIROBI FOR CODEL DIGGS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, PEPR, SHUM, GV

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CODEL DIGGS TO GUINEA

1. SUMMARY: CODEL'S TIME HERE, AUGUST 25-28, FEATURED WARM WELCOME FROM GUINEANS IN CONAKRY AND OTHER CENTERS AROUND THE COUNTRY. VISIT CAPPED BY TWO MEETINGS WITH SEKOU TOURE, IN WHICH GUINEAN PRESIDENT STRESSED IMPORTANCE TO HIS COUNTRY OF FRIENDSHIP AND GROWING COOPERATION WITH US AND OF THE EXPERIENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH AMERICANS CAN PROVIDE HIS PEOPLE, ALLOWING GUINEA SUCCESSFULLY TO SHORTEN TIME REQUIRED FOR ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. REP. CHARLES C. DIGGS (D-MICH) AND MS. JENNIFER WARD (STAFF DIRECTOR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, HOUSE
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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE) VISITED GUINEA AUGUST 25-28 EN ROUTE TO NAIROBI FOR KENYATTA STATE FUNERAL. CODEL MET AT AIRPORT BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, URBANISM AND HABITAT MOHAMED LAMINE TOURE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOROU BALDE, AND PROTOCOL OFFICIALS. THIS WELCOMING COMMITTEE RELAYED PRESIDENT TOURE'S "INSISTENCE" THAT CODEL STAY AT HIS

GUEST QUARTERS IN BELLE VUE, NORMALLY RESERVED FOR STATE VISITORS. GOG PROVIDED CODEL TRANSPORTATION THROUGHOUT ITS STAY. CODEL SEEN OFF AT AIRPORT AUGUST 28 BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY SEKOU KABA AND BY PROTOCOL OFFICIAL.

3. GOG LAID ON HELICOPTER TRIPS FOR CODEL AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS AUGUST 26 AND 27 TO KAMSAR (CBG BAUXITE DRYING AND PORT FACILITIES), FRIA (FRIGUIA BAUXITE MINE/ALUMINA PLANT) FORECARIAH (SALGUIDIA PINEAPPLE PLANTATION AND CANNERY) AND KINDIA (AGRONOMY FACULTY AT FOULAYA, TO BE ASSISTED BY AID PROJECT 675-0201; ALSO BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER). PARTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS GAVE CODEL WARM WELCOME AT EACH STOP. FOREIGN MINISTER FILY CISSOKO, WHO ACCOMPANIED CODEL ON BOTH DAYS' TRAVEL, EXHORTED THE LOCAL "MILITANTS" (IN FRENCH OR SOUSOU) AT MOST OF THE GATHERINGS AND REFERRED TO GUINEA'S "FRATERNAL RELATIONS" WITH US. COMMENT: CISSOKO CAME ACROSS AS A CONSUMMATE POLITICIAN. END COMMENT. CULTURAL PERFORMANCE SET UP AUGUST 27 FOLLOWING PRESIDENT TOURE'S DINNER AND CHARGE'S RECEPTION FOR GOG OFFICIALS AND EMBASSY STAFF.

4. SEKOU TOURE'S DINNER "EN FAMILLE" FOR CODEL INCLUDED LOW-KEY DISCUSSION OF BROAD ISSUES. ALSO PRESENT WERE PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI, CISSOKO, VISITING CAPE VERDEAN TRANSPORT MINISTER HERCULANO VIEIRA, AND CHARGE. SEKOU CONFIDENTIAL

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TOURE MOVED FROM GENERAL EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE TO PARTICULAR, FAVORABLE ASSESSMENT OF ROLE US IS NOW PLAYING IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. HE PRAISED REP. DIGGS FOR HIS CONSISTENT ADVOCACY OF CLOSER US COOPERATION WITH INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES AND FOR HIS LONGTIME FRIENDSHIP FOR GUINEA. TOURE ALSO MADE IT A POINT TO COMPLIMENT USG FOR ASSISTANCE IT HAS GIVEN TO CAPE VERDE, RESULTS OF WHICH HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THREE WEEKS EARLIER.

5. FORMAL CODEL TALK WITH PRESIDENT TOURE AUGUST 28 INCLUDED BEAVOGUI, CISSOKO, MINISTER FOR THE DOMAIN OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS SAIFOULAYE DIALLO, AND MINISTER FOR THE DOMAIN OF INTERIOR, SECURITY AND JUSTICE ELHADJ MOUSSA DIAKITE (WHO ALSO HEADS UP STATE COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATION WITH THE AMERICAS). MS. WARD ACTED AS INFORMAL INTERPRETER, AS SHE HAD PREVIOUS EVENING. TOURE'S DISCOURSE FEATURED A DETAILED HISTORICAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL EVENTS IN GUINEA, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE CONTINUING THREAT TO GUINEAN PARTY-STATE REPRESENTED BY PLOTS HATCHED ABROAD. EVER SINCE FRANCE'S DECISION IN 1958 TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT GUINEAN INDEPENDENCE DID NOT SUCCEED, THESE PLOTS HAD

AIMED AT ISOLATING GUINEA AND DEPRIVING AFRICANS OF THEIR
DIGNITY. SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST HARBORED MANY PLOTTERS,
AND WITHIN PAST THREE OR FOUR WEEKS AN EXILE GROUP HAD
MET IN PARIS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR HIS OVERTHROW. HE
WAS NOT CONCERNED, HOWEVER, SINCE HIS PEOPLE HAD LONG
SINCE BECOME SECURE IN THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND THEIR
DISCIPLINE. FOR TOURE, FINAL IRONY WAS THAT "WE, WHO
HAVE BEEN AGGRESSED UPON, SHOULD BE TREATED AS THE
AGGRESSORS", I.E., BE CHARGED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
FOR THEIR HANDLING OF GUINEAN TRAITORS. TOURE SAID HE
WAS COUNTING ON REP. DIGGS -- AS SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH
GUINEA AND WHO HAD NOW COME BACK TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THAT
GUINEAN PEOPLE ARE "NOT ENSLAVED" -- TO REPORT ON GUINEA
WHEN HE RETURNS TO US. "JUDGE US BY THE FACTS, NOT BY
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WORLD PRESS."

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CONAKRY 1625

NAIROBI FOR CODEL DIGGS

6. TOURE SAID GUINEA WOULD WELCOME ALL AMERICAN VISITORS AND WOULD WORK FOR THE SORT OF COOPERATION WITH US WHICH WILL LAST. "NEITHER GUINEA NOR US WILL REGRET THAT SORT OF COOPERATION." COOPERATION WAS IN FACT ALREADY GROWING, AND GUINEA WAS RELYING VERY MUCH ON HISTORY OF EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY. AMERICA'S EXPERIENCE IN FIELD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WAS LOOKED TO AS SOURCE OF EXPERTISE WHICH COULD ALLOW GUINEA SUCCESSFULLY TO SHORTEN TIME REQUIRED FOR ITS OWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

7. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS THANKED PRESIDENT TOURE FOR MASTERFUL HISTORICAL PRESENTATION AND NOTED HIS OWN OPTIMISM ABOUT THE CHANCES FOR EVEN CLOSER US-GUINEAN COOPERATION FOR BENEFIT OF BOTH PARTNERS. AMERICAN PEOPLE FELT ENORMOUS GOOD WILL TOWARD GUINEAN PEOPLE AND RESPECT FOR THEIR LEADER, WHO HAD BROUGHT GUINEA SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH

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INDEPENDENCE AND MANY SUBSEQUENT TRIALS. REP. DIGGS DESCRIBED ROLE OF US CONGRESS IN FOREIGN POLICY. HE NOTED THAT HIS PARTY NOW BOTH HELD EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND HAD MAJORITY IN LEGISLATIVE BRANCH; HE FELT PRESENT US POLICY TOWARD AFRICA BETTER REPRESENTED WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAN DURING DISTRACTIONS OF VIETNAM AND WATERGATE. CONGRESSMAN SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY PRESIDENT TOURE'S FORCEFUL USE OF WORD "WILL" -- GUINEA'S WILL TO COOPERATE WITH US AND HER WILL TO DRAW UPON VALUABLE US EXPERIENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. REP. DIGGS FELT ASSURED THAT SUCH DETERMINATION WAS IN OUR BEST MUTUAL INTERESTS. CONGRESSMAN ALSO ENCOURAGED TOURE TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S SESSION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHERE HIS LEADERSHIP HAS SUCH A POSITIVE IMPACT.

8. VIGNETTE: SATURDAY AFTERNOON SEKOU TOURE, WITH COUPLE OF MINISTERS AS PASSENGERS, DROVE HIS FAVORITE CITROEN OUT TO VIP GUEST QUARTERS WITH INTENTION OF GIVING CONGRESSMAN DIGGS PERSONALIZED TOUR OF CONAKRY. PRESIDENT TOURE WAS GIVEN WRONG INFORMATION -- THAT CODEL HAD LEFT QUARTERS -- AND DROVE BACK TO CHARGE'S HOUSE. CHARGE WAS LUCKILY OUT OF SHOWER BUT SHOELESS; RAN OUT TO PRESIDENTIAL CAR TO GREET AND TO ASSURE PERSONAGES THAT CODEL WAS INDEED BACK AT GUEST QUARTERS WHEN LAST HEARD FROM. CROWDS WHICH MATERIALIZED WERE CLAPPING AND CHANTING "PRESI, PRESI". TOURE FLUTTERED WHITE HANDKERCHIEF, HIS USUAL RESPONSE TO APPLAUSE. INDICATION OF PRESIDENT'S CONSIDERABLE POPULARITY REINFORCED BY APPARENT ABSENCE OF ANY SECURITY VEHICLE.

9. COMMENT: ARRANGEMENTS FOR CODEL, ALTHOUGH MADE ON SHORT NOTICE, DELAYED BY LEADERSHIP'S ABSENCE AT POLITICAL

MEETING IN KANKAN AND SANDWICHED IN WITH DIPLOMATIC
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MEETINGS ON RECONCILIATION OF GABON-BENIN BICKERING, WERE
CAREFULLY MADE TO ACCENTUATE GUINEA'S INTEREST IN AND POTEN-
TIAL FOR GREATER US ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT. PRESIDENT
TOURE REFERRED TO RECENT VISIT TO GUINEA OF ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MOOSE AND CLEARLY WANTED TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY
TO GET ACROSS TO ANOTHER BRANCH OF USG MESSAGE OF HIS
INTEREST IN "THE SORT OF COOPERATION WITH US WHICH WILL
LAST". WARMTH OF FRIENDSHIP SHOWN TO CODEL THROUGHOUT
VISIT WAS NOTEWORTHY, AS WAS THE SCHEDULING OF TWO SEPARATE
MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT TOURE. TOURE'S APPARENT REGRESSION
IN RETURNING TO OLD TOPIC OF SENEGAL/IVORY OAST CENTERS
OF ANTI-TOURE PLOTTING SHOULD BE READ AS PART OF HIS
HISTORICAL PRESENTATION AND NOT AS INDICATING ANY HITCH
IN COURSE OF GUINEAN RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THOSE STATES.
THRUST OF TOURE'S PITCH WAS OVERALL FORWARD-LOOKING AND
ENCOURAGING. END COMMENT.
THOMPSON

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